Discovering Old BROCKVILLE

Ontario

Victoria Hall

The Historic Core

Prepared by
Douglas M. Grant
of the
Brockville and District
Historical Society

For the
Brockville
Chamber of Commerce
and the
Brockville Schools

Funded by
The Brockville Foundation

DISCOVERING OLD BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO

The Historic Core

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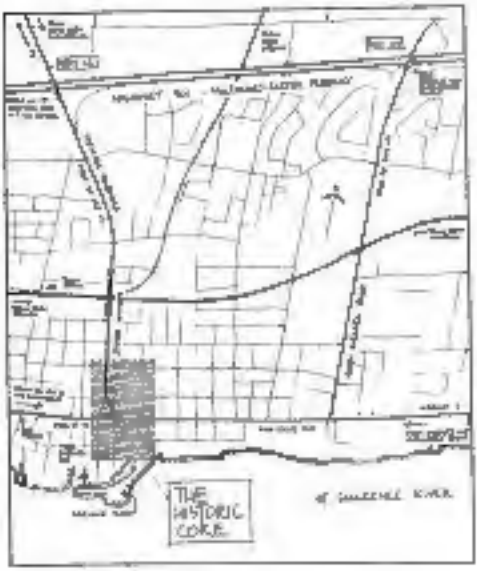

A MAP OF THE HISTORIC CORE OF BROCKVILLE MAY BE FOUND INSIDE THE BACK COVER OF THIS BOOKLET.

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1. VICTORIA HALL **1862-64**
King Street at Market Sq.

Victoria Hall, the present seat of city government in Brockville, was designed by Kingston architect, Henry H. Horsey in 1862 as a combination indoor market area, office space and concert hall.

The building was officially opened in the Fall of 1863 but was not completely finished until at least a year later. The ground floor was the location of the Post Office until 1884 and renovations were carried out in the 1960's to house the town offices. The original market hall at the rear was expanded with the addition of two additional floors in 1904. The beautiful concert hall on the second floor was only converted into modern offices in recent times.

3. BROCKVILLE RAILWAY TUNNEL **1854-60**
Water Street at Market Sq.

This tunnel has legitimate claim to being the oldest railroad tunnel in Canada, being opened for traffic in 1860. Built amidst controversy and financial difficulties, it is a product and example of early engineering and tunneling techniques developed in the British Isles.

Running north and south for 1730 feet beneath the centre of Brockville, the tunnel was drilled and blasted through mostly solid rock to give rail access to the central shoreline of Brockville. The southern terminus of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway was located on the island off the shore now known as Blockhouse Island and tracks were laid on the newly filled-in isthmus from the mainland.

The two openings at each end of the tunnel were finished off with large stone blocks and capped with four massive oak doors which were closed each night. The tunnel was in service for 94 years, closing for regular service in 1954 just a century after work was first started on its construction.

3. DAVID ROBERTSON HOUSE **c.1853**
10 Broad St.

This beautiful stone house could have been erected about 1853 for David Robertson and his wife, the former Ruth Mallock. The house stands on the corner of the property owned originally by her father Judge George Mallock.

Robertson was a partner in the mercantile business of Matthie, Roberton & Co. The property was subsequently owned by Robert Bowie from 1872-1884. The building is typical of many stone homes built in Brockville in the mid-19th century. It retains elements of Georgian-Loyalist ideas of symmetry and balance in a two-storey building.

4. GEORGE MALLOCH HOUSE **c.1830**
20 Broad St.

This unique 3 storey building is reminiscent of the type of urban dwelling common to Georgian sections of British towns. But it is one of a kind in this city. The Malloch House is fronted with a smooth-dressed stone which is rare in Brockville houses. As far as can be determined, this building has stood separately on this corner lot by itself since it was built in the first half of the 19th century. Did its design anticipate a series of similar structures to march southward towards the river?

The entire property which makes up this block was purchased by lawyer George Malloch in 1827. Malloch's legal talents led to his elevation to the bench in 1842 and he was known thereafter as Judge Malloch. At the time of his death in 1870, the property passed to his wife Elizabeth and then to his son Archibald.

Used for many years as an apartment building, this imposing town house and its rear coach house is now being used for both commercial and residential purposes.

5. ROBERT SHEPHERD HOUSE **c.1835**
24, 26 Broad St.

This substantial stone residence may have been erected during the years 1834-35 for boat tailor Thomas Scott. Through some misfortune of finances, Scott was forced to give up the property to his creditors. Robert Shepherd, a stone mason of Cornwall, east of Brockville, who held a partial

mortgage and could have been the builder, eventually purchased the property in 1836 by auction. Shepherd became a Brockville resident and ran a saw mill and grist mill in the west end of town near the mouth of Buell's Creek. The original corner property remained in the Shepherd family until 1923, long after Robert Shepherd's death in 1879.

6. DR. THOMAS McQUEEN HOUSE **c.1840**
36 Broad Street

One of Brockville's early physicians, Thomas F. McQueen purchased the property at 36 Broad St. in 1839. Whether this house can be traced back that far is at present unclear.

From Dr. McQueen the house in 1899 passed to Robert J. Fitzsimmons, the grocer, whose business was located on the south side of King St. west of St. Andrew St. for many years. Fitzsimmons was also mayor of Brockville in 1898. On his death in 1900 the property passed to his second wife, and eventually to his daughter Lillian, who married the dentist Samuel Govan.

The building has apparently undergone some alterations from its original state, notably the front entrance and an added rear wing.

7

7. **THE DUNHAM BLOCK** 1892-93
51 King St. W. at Broad St.

On this important corner stands a large brick and terra cotta structure which has housed some of Brockville's largest department stores from its very beginnings. Built on land acquired in 1811 by Charles Dunham, an early merchant and innkeeper, the Dunham Block was erected in 1892-93 by his descendants as an investment property. The present building replaced an earlier brick one which had been Dr. George Dunham's office and drug store until the 1870's.

The office space upstairs in the present building was first rented to the Bell Telephone Co. and the Canada Life Insurance Co. and shortly thereafter the expanding mercantile business of Robert Wright became the building's major tenant. The Robert Wright Co. remained a landmark here until 1926 when they sold out to the T. Eaton Co. which operated a subsidiary business here, the Canadian Department Stores Ltd. In 1966 Walker Stores Ltd. moved in and remained until bought out by Marks & Spencer Co. in 1976, and they in turn closed their business in January 1978.

8. THE HARDING BUILDING 1853
41, 45 King St. W. at Broad St.

This is the building erected for a large general merchandise business, Messrs Maynard & Co. in 1832. The property was, however, owned from 1831-1855 by Henry Jones of H. & S. Jones Co. who was the village postmaster as well. There is some evidence that the Post Office was housed here also in the 1830's.

In the drawing above we see that in 1853 its tenants were the Brockville Recorder, auctioneer Perdyce Lothrop, and druggists Relph & Converse. The building, however, has a long association with the Harding name having been purchased in 1866 by Thomas J. B. Harding, a young druggist who took over the existing pharmacy business of A. M. MacDonald and operated it here for over 25 years. The building then became the property of his physician son, Dr. William E. Harding in 1895 and he then carried out a number of mostly internal renovations and placed the date stone on the front parapet in 1904.

9. THE FULFORD BLOCK
King St. W. & Court House Ave.

There has been a building owned by the Fulford family on this corner for almost a hundred years. The large building which is now on this site and runs up Court House Ave. almost to the old Post Office is mostly a product of construction which took place in 1909.

The structure of an early store which stood on the corner in the 1860's is assumed to have been incorporated into the overall design put together by George A. Allen, the architect of the large Court House Ave. addition.

A succession of Drug stores have operated out of this corner location, starting with the business of William M. Fulford, then George T. Fulford, John A. Barr, F. B. Carry, F. C. Carry, and Stan Leslie up to this day.

The property for the Fulford Block was purchased by George T. Fulford in 1884 from the Morris family. Fulford, whose expanding patent medicine business was started as an outgrowth of his drug store, soon needed additional space and built the new addition and renovated the existing building in 1889 to emulate the style of the new Post Office just to the north.

A sudden and disastrous fire in 1916 gutted the building and the inside had to be rebuilt. Early photographs taken prior to this fire show the original detailed design of the third floor which was destroyed.

10. WAR MEMORIAL **1924**
Court House Ave. & King St.

The monument to those who died and served in the "Great" War is often taken for granted as it stands at the bottom of Court House Ave., but in 1924 when it was erected, feelings were high and memories still vivid of the recent war and those who didn't come back. The impetus for the memorial came from Mayor W. D. Reynolds and the town council and the ceremony of unveiling on May 23, 1924 by Hon. George P. Graham, then Minister of Railways and Canals, attracted a large throng of people. The twenty-two and a half foot statue of bronze and granite depicts a Canadian soldier in battle dress. The sculptor was Nicolas Pirotton and the figure was cast in Toronto by the Allis-Chalmers Co. It contains a number of inscriptions and the names of the various battlefields on which Brockville residents served.

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11

41 JOHN H. DILLINGHAM 1917
MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
Grand Avenue Entrance

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

12

[illegible]

[illegible]

15

held by the Brockville Loan and Savings Co. By court foreclosure the Publows lost the property and it was sold off to individual owners in the years 905-06

16

16. GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK 1931
BUST AND FOUNTAIN
Court House Green

Of the three sculptural works on Court House Ave this bust of General Brock is the earliest and also pre-dates any of the present Court House Ave landscaping.

This drinking fountain surmounted by the likeness of the hero of the War of 1812 was unveiled on August 19, 912 by the then Minister of Militia Sam Hughes. Erected through the efforts of the Brock Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) the design was the work of the skilled Ottawa sculptor Hamilton McCarthy

17

25

26

[illegible] c. 1854

[illegible] was erected with the wealth [illegible] Hall. [illegible] Hall, the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

30

31

[illegible]

[illegible]

A look above the ground floor reveals a very steeply roof above a [illegible] facade. The windows were shuttered as well as [illegible]

THE FOUNDING OF BROCKVILLE

The founding of the settlement which has become the City of Brockville has its roots in the first wave of Loyalist refugees who were displaced from their homes during the years of the American Revolutionary War of Independence [illegible]

Following the peace agreement, the Canadian Governor Sir Frederick Haldimand, who was based at Quebec, instructed his surveyors to lay out lots and townships on the unsettled lands along the north shore of the River St. Lawrence between Montreal and Lake Ontario. In the summer of [illegible] the

[illegible]

[illegible]

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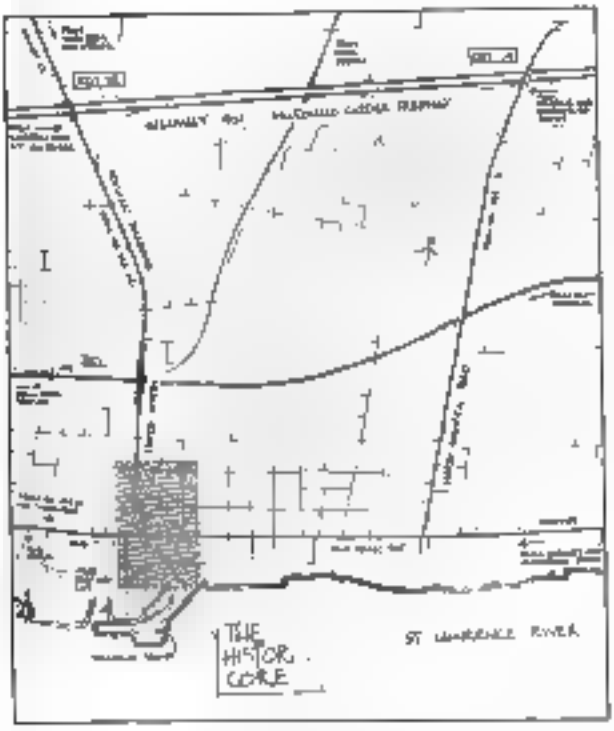

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Water Street at Market Sq

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2

Running [illegible] feet beneath the centre of [illegible] the upper was drilled and blasted through nearly solid rock to give rail access to the central downtown of Brockville. The southern terminus of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway was located on the island off the shore now known as Blockhouse Island and tracks were laid on the newly filled-in isthmus from the mainland.

The two openings at each end of the tunnel were finished off with large stone blocks and capped with four massive oak doors which were closed each night. The tunnel was in service for 94 years, closing for regular service in 1954 just a century after work was first started on its construction.

3. **DAVID ROBERTSON HOUSE** c.1853
10 Broad St

This beautiful stone house could have been started about 1853 for David Robertson and his wife the former Ruth Mallock. The house stands on the corner of the property owned originally by her father Judge George Mallock.

Robertson was a partner in the mercantile business of Mather Robertson & Co. The property was subsequently owned by Robert Bowie from 1871-1884. The building is typical of many stone houses built in Brockville in the mid-19th century. It retains elements of Georgian-Loyalist ideas of symmetry and balance in a two storey building.

4. GEORGE MALLOCH HOUSE c.1835
20 Bond St

This unique 3 storey building is reminiscent of the type of urban dwelling common to Georgian sections of British towns. But it is one of a kind in this city. The Malloch House is topped with a gambrel-dormered mansard which is rare in Brockville houses. As far as can be determined this building has stood separately on this corner lot by itself since it was built in the first half of the 19th century. Did the design anticipate a series of similar structures to march southward towards the river?

The entire property which makes up this block was purchased by lawyer George Malloch in 1827. Malloch's legal talents led to his elevation to the bench in 1842 and he was known thereafter as Judge Malloch. At the time of his death in 1878, the property passed to his wife Elizabeth and then to his son Archibald.

Used for many years as an apartment building, this imposing town house and its rear coach house is now being used for both commercial and residential purposes.

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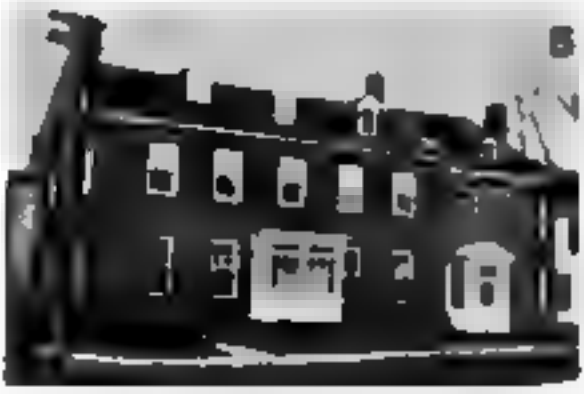
34 St Paul St

This substantial stone residence may have been erected during the years 1830-35 for local tailor Thomas Scott. Through some misfortune of finances, Scott was forced to give up the property to his creditors. Robert Shepherd, a stone mason of Cornwall, east of Brockville, who held a partial



[illegible] Shepherd [illegible] Brockville resident and ran a saw mill and grist mill on the west end of town near the mouth of Buell's Creek. The original corner property remained in the Shepherd family until 1923 long after Robert Shepherd's death in 1879.

6. DR. THOMAS McQUEEN HOUSE c.1849
38 Broad Street

One of Brockville's early physicians, Thomas F. McQueen purchased the property at 38 Broad St. in 1839. Whether this house can be traced back that far is at present unclear.

From Dr McQueen the house in 1859 passed to Robert J Fitzsimmons the grocer whose business was located on the south side of King St west of St Andrew St for many years Fitzsimmons was also mayor of Brockville in 1858 On his death in 1890 the property passed to his second wife and eventually to his daughter Lilian, who married the dentist Samuel Gowan

The building has apparently undergone some alterations from its original state notably the front entrance and an added rear wing

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7 THE DUNHAM BLOCK 1892-93
51 King St W at Broad St

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The office space upstairs in the present building was first rented to the Bell Telephone Co and the Canada Life Insurance Co and shortly thereafter the expanding mercantile business of Robert Wright became the building s major tenant The Robert Wright Co remained a landmark here until 1926 when they sold out to the T Eaton Co which operated a subsidiary business here the Canadian Department Stores Ltd In 1946 Walker Stores Ltd moved in and remained until bought out by Morris & Spencer Co in 1976, and they in turn closed their business in January 1978

8. THE HARDING BUILDING
41 - 45 King to W - at Church to

This is the building erected for a large general merchandise business, Messrs Maynard & Co in 1832. The property was however owned from 1821 - 1854 by Henry Jones of H & S Jones Co who was the village postmaster as well. There is some evidence that the Post Office was housed here also in the 1830's.

In the drawing above we see that in 1851 the tenants were the Bank of the Recorder permanent Pension Lottery and druggists Ralph & Company. The building however has a long association with the Harding name having been purchased in 1868 by Thomas J. B. Harding, a young druggist who took over the existing pharmacy business of A. M. MacDonald and operated it here for over 25 years. The building then became the property of his pharmacist son Dr. William F. Harding in 1893 and he there carried out a number of socially oriented renovations and placed the date stone on the front parapet in 1904.

9. THE FULFORD BLOCK
King to W - & Upper Queen Ave

There has been a building owned by the Fulford family on this corner for almost a hundred years. The large building which is now on this site and runs up Upper Queen Ave almost to the old Post Office is mainly a product of reconstruction which took place in 1889.

The structure of an early stone which stood on the corner in the 1840's is assumed to have been incorporated into the overall design put together by George A. Allen the architect of the large Court House Ave. addition.

A succession of Drug stores have operated out of this corner location starting with the business of William M Fulford, then George T Fulford, John A Barr F R Curry F C Curry and Stan Leslie up to this day

The property for the Fulford Block was purchased by George T Fulford in 1884 from the Morris family Fulford, whose expanding patent medicine business was started as an outgrowth of his drug store soon needed additional space and built the new addition and renovated the existing building in 1889 to emulate the style of the new Post Office just to the north

A sudden and disastrous fire in 1916 gutted the building and the inside had to be rebuilt Early photographs taken prior to this fire show the original detailed design of the third floor which was destroyed.

16. WAR MEMORIAL **1924**
Court House Ave & King St.

The monument to those who died and served in the Great War is often taken for granted as it stands at the bottom of Court House Ave but in 1924 when it was erected feelings were high and memories still vivid of the recent war and those who didn't come back The impetus for the memorial came from Mayor W B Reynolds and the town council and the ceremony of unveiling on May 23 1924 by Hon George P Graham then Minister of Railways and Canals attracted a large throng of people The twenty-two and a half foot statue of bronze and granite depicts a Canadian soldier in battle dress. The sculptor was Nicolas Pinxton and the figure was cast in Toronto by the Allis-Chalmers Co. It contains a number of inscriptions and the names of the various battlefields on which Brockville residents served.

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11 **JOHN H. FULFORD MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN** 1917
Court House Avenue

This unique element of landscape design on Court House Ave has undergone a recent restoration and re birth after sitting unusable for the last few years

The fountain was erected in 1917 to honour the life of John Harris Fulford a public figure and mayor of this town around the turn of the century The placing of the structure in this position subsequently led to the establishment of the boulevard in the centre of the street and included other improvements which have since been removed

The sculpturing in the Italian Renaissance style was the work of Herbert Raine of Montreal and was executed in glazed terra cotta in New York City It was designed as a series of three circular basins of increasing size with an arrangement of water jets and spill rings

The cultural importance of this fountain was recognized in 1977 by a grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to the Brockville Foundation who carried out the restoration to bring it back into operation

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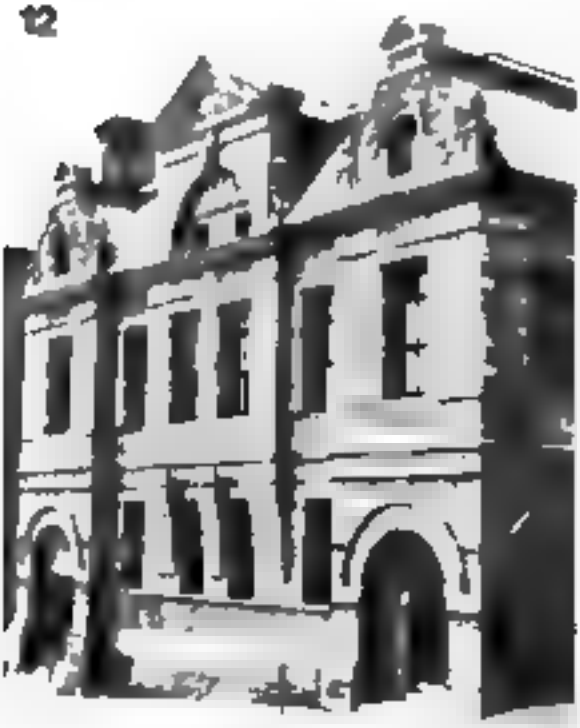
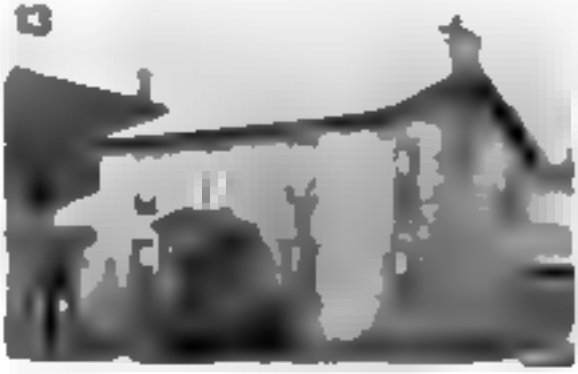


12 POST OFFICE AND [illegible] GRADE II
[illegible] STORE HOUSE
[illegible] Manor Ave

This is the building which the Queensway government printers. Thomas Fuller designed the [illegible] and was erected during 1851-[illegible]. Designed to house the then government functions of [illegible] and [illegible] Fuller's prestigious and monumental building has been a landmark in [illegible] Manor Avenue for over [illegible] years. Its presence in the 1851's led to the [illegible] of the other large commercial buildings on the street. The [illegible] Building and the Portland Block were both designed to complement the style of the Post Office. The Post Office moved from these quarters in [illegible] and the property was purchased by the Bishop Catholic [illegible] in 1965 and converted into a parish [illegible] and meeting hall



13 ALEXANDRE MANSION HOUSE c.1850
[illegible] Manor Ave

This manor building which now houses the Bank of the Club is the only remaining residential structure on Lower Manor Avenue and its simple massing is in contrast with all the other larger buildings on the street. A few years all the property on this west side of Lower Manor Ave was owned by the Alexandre family who operated a successful [illegible] business. The manor house may not have been built [illegible] Alexandre. The property was transferred to the ownership of Alexandre Alexandre whose brother William Alexandre has previously given up the [illegible] in the 1840's. This land and house [illegible] property of the Bank of [illegible] Canada which appears to have served as [illegible] until 1864 when it returned to private hands. Two doctors lived here and had their offices in the northern wing. Dr. [illegible] Lamontagne in the early 1900's and Dr. Henry Ward from 1904-1920. It has been maintained as a private [illegible] club. The Bank Club [illegible] 1960

15

held by the Brockville Loan and Savings Co By court foreclosure the Publows lost the property and it was sold off to individual owners in the years 1905-06.

16

16. **GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK** **1912**
BUST AND FOUNTAIN
Court House Green

Of the three sculptural works on Court House Ave this bust of General Brock is the earliest and also pre-dates any of the present Court House Ave landscaping

This drinking fountain surmounted by the likeness of the hero of the War of 1812 was unveiled on August 19 1912 by the then Minister of Militia Sam Hughes Erected through the efforts of the Brock Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I O D E the design was the work of the skilled Ottawa sculptor Hamilton McCarthy

Brockville has always been proud of the naming of the town after Isaac Brock and this statue was erected to commemorate the 50th year following his death at Queenston Heights October 13 1812

17 MOLSON'S BANK BUILDING
21 Court House Ave

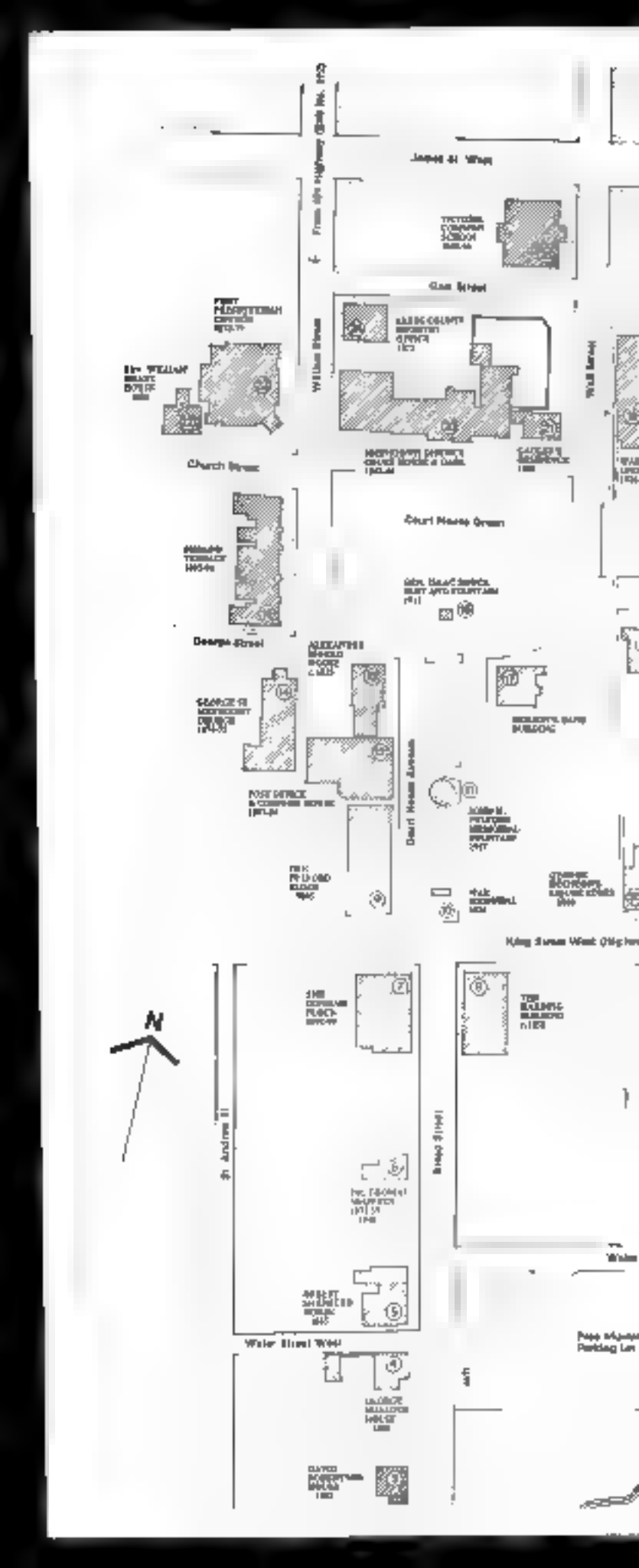
The background of this building is closely connected with the operations of a number of early banks in Brockville. The exact date of construction is unknown but it exhibits characteristics of bank architecture being erected in this country during the mid 19th century. The first known bank to be housed here was the Bank of Montreal in 1851. The Commercial Bank was the owner beginning in 1855 until they merged with the Merchant's Bank of Canada. This organization eventually sold the property in 1869

The last bank to use the building was the Molson's Bank which was bought out by the Bank of Montreal in the 1920's. For many years until recently the building was used and owned by the Ogle R Gowan Temple of the Orange Lodge

18. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1878-79
Pine Street at Wall St

When this Baptist tabernacle was dedicated on March 23 1879 it was considered to have no other rival for architectural beauty in this part of the country. The congregation was fortunate to obtain the services of Ogdensburg architect James P Johnston whose skill in composition and planning justified their expectations of achieving a masterpiece in late Victorian design

It was erected to replace a much smaller stone structure on this site. The congregation can trace itself back to its founding in 1804 when it first met in the Rock School House on Perth St


N
Church Street
Court House Square
George Street
King Street West
Water Street West
St. Andrew St.
Bridge Street

19

20

20. DISTRICT OF MUSKOKA 1862-64
COURT HOUSE & GAOL
Court House Square

Perhaps the finest piece of architecture in Bracebridge is the Court House and Gaol built by the District of Muskoka in the years 1862-64. This handsome stepped building was designed by the well known Toronto architect John G. Howard to stand on the ceremonial site which had contained two previous court houses. This central square and green was the result of a generous donation by William Hurd in 1859 of enough land to contain a District Court House and a wide road leading down to the river.

The main facade of the present courthouse is reminiscent of the houses designed in the Dutch Palladian style such as constructed by Robert Adam and Sir William Chambers in England. The building was designed to conform to the prevailing styles of public architecture and the environment. The old courthouse on the west end faces the present main door and retains much of the atmosphere of the past. The light in the upper west wall serves the requirements of modern penal practice but is not unsightly when the building public.

At the west end of the complex is an 1888 addition designed by George A. Allan of Brockville in blend with the whole without being obtrusive. It contains the offices and council chambers of the Frontenac government.

21

21 [illegible] 1850
[illegible]

As part of the program of improving the facilities of the [illegible] in 1850 the construction of this house for the warden or gaoler as he was then known was included. Apparently the architect was George A. Allan who had been responsible for the design of the earlier addition to the west end of the Court House in 1848. It is no longer the home of a warden and superintendent

23 [illegible] WILLIAM SMART HOUSE c.1830
[illegible]

This stone house has long been the residence of the Presbyterian minister serving the nearby church. Originally built early in the 1830's by the first Presbyterian minister, the Rev. William Smart, the house was owned and occupied by the congregation almost [illegible] and served as a manse and met [illegible] that purpose today.

[illegible] was born [illegible] England in [illegible] and [illegible] to Australia in the [illegible] early [illegible] He received the property from William Black in [illegible] and he [illegible] date of construction is unknown but it has probably replaced the earlier home of [illegible] which were built [illegible] and [illegible] The [illegible] of the property is typical of Georgian [illegible] symmetry of [illegible] and [illegible] a central [illegible] entrance. The [illegible] are [illegible] by the Historical Places and Objects Board [illegible] number [illegible].

25 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1870-71
[illegible] & William St

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church [illegible] in the early [illegible] and the arrival of the Rev. William Smart. The present building was [illegible] and opened on this site. The land was first [illegible] to Rev. William Smart and he [illegible] a frame building [illegible] [illegible] A stone addition was [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] 500 and was used until [illegible] when a [illegible] was [illegible] to make way for the [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] structure is still an [illegible] and [illegible] opened in [illegible] Designed by Christchurch architect James P. Johnston, it is faced with [illegible] and trimmed with [illegible] Particularly noteworthy are the beautiful stained glass windows and the three bell towers.

24 [illegible] COUNTY REGISTER'S OFFICE 1872
[illegible]

The brick [illegible] Register's Office standing north of the Court House buildings was erected in [illegible] to replace an earlier stone registry building which had become inadequate. It was built to a standard Georgia governmental design as was the one in Fremont. By 1899 this office was considered too small and an addition designed by Brunswick architect O. [illegible] [illegible] adhering to the original

24

design was added [illegible] In 1967 [illegible] In recent years more space was added to the rear but the original fine wearing brick detailing on the street facades was not covered

25. VICTORIA COMMON SCHOOL 1854-56
West Street at [illegible]

This old school building had been in continuous operation for 116 years when it was closed down in 1972. Victoria School was the first attempt in Brockville to house a large number of students under one roof when it was opened in 1856. Designed by engineer and surveyor Thomas Home, it was constructed of locally quarried rough-cut stone by builder William Malcolm. A large two-storey building, it contains 8 large classrooms and a unique double stairway.

26. CHRISTOPHER J. FRASER HOUSE c. 1851
St. James St. W. at Victoria Ave.

This large brick structure seems to have been built about 1851 for James and William Wiltse, a pair of successful home pioneers in Brockville. It became the home of newest and most prominent C. F. Fraser in 1868 a few years after he started his Brockville career in Brockville. Fraser rose quickly in politics to hold high cabinet positions in the provincial government from 1871 to 1894, having represented this area as MPP for more than 20 years. Following his death in 1894 the property remained in family hands until 1963.

27 **SAMUEL FLINT HOUSE** c.1854
[illegible] James St. E. at Victoria Ave

This stately house was connected with the wealthy Flint family from its beginnings. It was probably built about 1854 for Samuel Flint, the heir to the estate of his father Billy Flint Sr. who amassed a great deal of property and money in the early years of Brockville. The property remained in the hands of family descendants until 1960. Of particular interest is the graceful verandah roof supported by detailed woodwork supports.

28. **WILLIAM McCULLOUGH HOUSE** c.1853
Victoria Ave

The property for this house was purchased from the Trustees of the Congregational Church next door in 1853 by William McCullough. McCullough was a partner in a large factory on the waterfront which produced agricultural equipment. The house must date from that time as it appears on the map of Brockville published in 1853. William McCullough in his will of January 1885 disclosed that he was resident in this house at the time. On his death it became the property of his daughter.

29 ST [illegible] (1893)
[illegible]

The handsome stone building was erected during the years 1892-3 as the Shrewsville Congregational Church. Very little is known of this group but by 1928 the congregation must have dwindled and the building was sold to the group of Anglicans who had established the St. Paul's Church in 1881. The building behind wing on Plan 1a was added about 1950.

30 [illegible] (1883-84)
[illegible] on Plan 1a

This large [illegible] house was constructed in Gothic revival style in 1883 and completed during 1884 for Thomas Symonds M.P. Shrewsville, a native of Shrewsville was a popular [illegible] philanthropist and surgeon born there 1841, in 1870 the widow Symonds [illegible] Shrewsville remained unoccupied until 1911 when it passed to the Shrewsville Historical [illegible] Society, a Shrewsville lawyer

30

[illegible] was built in New [illegible] 1884 by the then Registrar of the [illegible] Dr Walter Hill for the substantial sum of £1,000. It underwent a number of external and internal alterations to bring it up to Victorian fashion. The addition of a bay window, of cement and a new entrance changed the appearance of the house significantly from that time. It has been the home of the late Dr Arthur Hill [illegible] and his family since 1919.

31

41 CHRISTOPHER [illegible] HOUSE [illegible] 1884
[illegible]

The house probably dates back to the 1880's when the property was owned by Christopher Fletcher, a hardware and grocery merchant whose store was at the corner of King St E and Victoria Ave.

James and Victoria Kyle purchased the property in 18[illegible] and shortly after sold it on December 18[illegible] to James W. G. Rivers, the manager of the Molsons Bank. It passed through further private hands until purchased by the Knights of Columbus in 1972 who maintained ownership until recently.

Presently the building is being used for and is the home of the Friendship Centre, an adult drop-in facility.

31. CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER'S STORE, c.1868
Bay St. at Victoria Ave.

The Evangelical Map on this corner is on a corner which goes back at least to the year 1868. It is believed recorded that Thomas Webster ran a general merchandise business on this site as early as 1854 and he eventually purchased the property in 1854 from the estate of Charles Jones.

By 1867 the store housed the hardware and grocery business of Christopher Fletcher who probably was responsible for erecting the present structure. The other older buildings in the row are of a similar style and age. From about 1880 and well into the 1900's McMaster's was a thriving grocery business here.

33. SIR VINCENT MASSEY HOUSE 1898
17 Victoria Avenue

This magnificent late Victorian styled brick house was built in 1898 for Vincent H. Massey, M.D. as a home and office. Massey, a skilled surgeon and pioneer in this area, had started practice in Brantford in 1870 and remained working here until his death in 1900. Built as a private residence for several other large brothers erected in Brantford at the same time, 17 Victoria was for the most of the

33

34

34. ADAM FULLERTON HOUSE c 1850
10 Victoria Ave

There is a lack of detailed information about this interesting Victorian brick house. It appears to have been built in the 1850's and was owned by Mary A. Hill although she never owned the resident nor proprietor of the property except for a short [illegible] recorded as being occupied by Dr. Thomas F. Robertson in 1861. This part of the property was sold to John Fulton in 1871 and he in turn sold it to Adam Fullerton the druggist in 1881. From then on it appears certain that part of the building of the Fullerton Drug Business operated by Ewart Drugs [illegible]

35. THE PAGE MARKET BLOCK c 1880's
King St. W. at Victoria Ave.

One of the [illegible] buildings on King St. with a decorated cornice front. The building now housing Fullerton's Drug Store was apparently built as two stores. First was the corner store [illegible] which [illegible] Hodgson Manners as a dry goods store. The smaller portion to the west on the same design and appearance was built by [illegible] and [illegible] Kitchen and James Page about 1881.

The second floor housed the studio of A. C. Mathews. Among the [illegible] photographers and his successor George B. Morgan as well. The middle portion of this block was occupied by the Post Office for over 10 years under postmaster John Fulton. The Post Office moved across to Victoria Hall in the late 1880's.

The Fullerton Drug Store was founded by druggist Adam Fullerton about 1850 in one part of the block and eventually the business moved into the whole building. The third floor brick extension was added sometime in the 1900's or later.

96 GEORGE HOUSTON'S LIQUOR STORE c.1869
92 King St. W.

Perhaps not the oldest store on our main street but certainly exhibiting a style reminiscent of early days is the brick building of George R. Houston who operated a liquor and grocery business here in the 1860's and '70's. There have been many many businesses that have rented the premises in the succeeding years. It was known as the Central Meat Market operated by butchers Daniel Ross and Thomas Burns in the 1890's and The Electric Shop of A. P. Leach in 1914 amongst others.

A look above the ground floor reveals a rare sloping roof above a commercial facade. The windows were shortened as well not too many years ago.

THE FOUNDING OF BROCKVILLE

The founding of the settlement which has become the City of Brockville has its roots in the first wave of Loyalist refugees who were displaced from their homes during the years of the American Revolution or War of Independence 1776-1783.

Following the peace agreement the Canadian Governor Sir Frederick Haldimand who was based at Quebec instructed his surveyors to lay out lots and townships in the unsettled lands along the north shore of the River St. Lawrence between Montreal and Cataraqui (Kingston). In the summer of 1784 the

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRACKNELL

At a [illegible] ceremonies in the Town Hall on March [illegible] Bracknell became one of the first [illegible] in England to be granted a Coat of Arms. [illegible] Arms of other [illegible] heraldic designs which [illegible] official insignia. [illegible]

The Arms of the Corporation of the [illegible] Bracknell [illegible] Bracknell [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Discovering Old BROCKVILLE

Ontario

Victoria Hall

The Historic Core

Prepared by
Douglas M. Grant
of the
Brockville and District
Historical Society

For the
Brockville
Chamber of Commerce
and the
Brockville Schools

Funded by
The Brockville Foundation

DISCOVERING OLD BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO

The Historic Core

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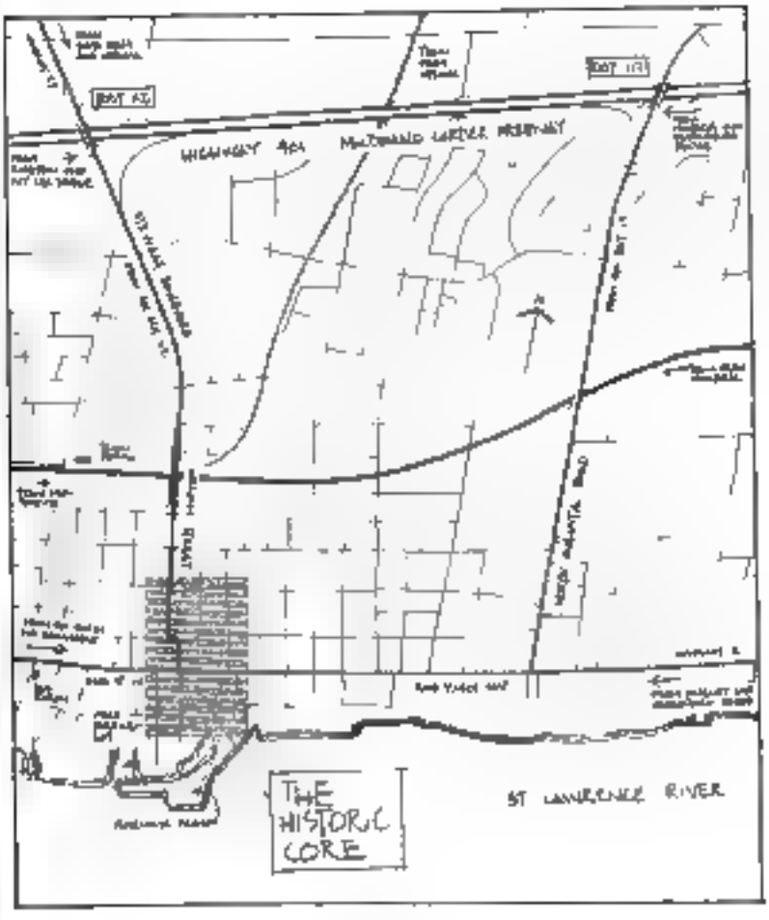


LIBRARY
JAN 15
ONTARIO

A MAP OF THE HISTORIC CORE OF BROCKVILLE MAY BE FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS BOOKLET.

F
5417
B76 no 12

1. VICTORIA HALL **1862-64**
King Street at Market Sq

Victoria Hall, the present seat of city government in Brockville, was designed by Kingston architect, Henry H Horsey in 1862 as a combination indoor market area, office space and concert hall

The building was officially opened in the Fall of 1863 but was not completely finished until at least a year later The ground floor was the location of the Post Office until 1884 and renovations were carried out in the 1880's to house the town offices. The original market hall at the rear was expanded with the addition of two additional floors in 1904. The beautiful concert hall on the second floor was only converted into modern offices in recent times

2. BROCKVILLE RAILWAY TUNNEL **1854-60**
Water Street at Market Sq

This tunnel has legitimate claim to being the oldest railroad tunnel in Canada, being opened for traffic in 1860 Built amidst controversy and financial difficulties, it is a product and example of early engineering and tunneling techniques developed in the British Isles.

Running north and south for 1730 feet beneath the centre of Brockville, the tunnel was drilled and blasted through mostly solid rock to give rail access to the central shoreline of Brockville. The southern terminus of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway was located on the island off the shore now known as Blockhouse Island and tracks were laid on the newly filled-in isthmus from the mainland.

The two openings at each end of the tunnel were finished off with large stone blocks and capped with four massive oak doors which were closed each night. The tunnel was in service for 94 years, closing for regular service in 1954 just a century after work was first started on its construction.

3. DAVID ROBERTSON HOUSE **c.1853**
10 Broad St.

This beautiful stone house could have been erected about 1853 for David Robertson and his wife, the former Ruth Malloch. The house stands on the corner of the property owned originally by her father Judge George Malloch.

Robertson was a partner in the mercantile business of Matthie, Robertson & Co. The property was subsequently owned by Robert Bowie from 1872-1884. The building is typical of many stone homes built in Brockville in the mid-19th century. It retains elements of Georgian-Loyalist ideas of symmetry and balance in a two-storey building.

4. GEORGE MALLOCH HOUSE **c.1828**
20 Broad St

This unique 3 storey building is reminiscent of the type of urban dwelling common to Georgian sections of British towns. But it is one of a kind in this city. The Malloch House is fronted with a smooth-dressed stone which is rare in Brockville houses. As far as can be determined, this building has stood separately on this corner lot by itself since it was built in the first half of the 19th century. Did its design anticipate a series of similar structures to march southward towards the river?

The entire property which makes up this block was purchased by lawyer George Malloch in 1827. Malloch's legal talents led to his elevation to the bench in 1842 and he was known thereafter as Judge Malloch. At the time of his death in 1878, the property passed to his wife Elizabeth and then to his son Archibald.

Used for many years as an apartment building, this imposing town house and its rear coach house is now being used for both commercial and residential purposes.

5. ROBERT SHEPHERD HOUSE **c.1835**
24, 26 Broad St

This substantial stone residence may have been erected during the years 1834-35 for local tailor Thomas Scott. Through some misfortune of finances, Scott was forced to give up the property to his creditors. Robert Shepherd, a stone mason of Cornwall, east of Brockville, who held a partial

mortgage and would have been the builder eventually purchased the property in 1836 by auction Shepherd became a Brockville resident and ran a saw mill and grist mill in the west end of town near the mouth of Buell's Creek. The original corner property remained in the Shepherd family until 1923, long after Robert Shepherd's death in 1879

6. DR. THOMAS McQUEEN HOUSE c.1840
36 Broad Street

One of Brockville's early physicians, Thomas F McQueen purchased the property at 36 Broad St. in 1839. Whether this house can be traced back that far is at present unclear

From Dr McQueen the house in 1859 passed to Robert J Fitzsimmons, the grocer whose business was located on the south side of King St west of St Andrew St. for many years. Fitzsimmons was also mayor of Brockville in 1858 On his death in 1890 the property passed to his second wife, and eventually to his daughter Lillian, who married the dentist Samuel Gowan.

The building has apparently undergone some alterations from its original state, notably the front entrance and an added rear wing

7. THE DUNHAM BLOCK **1892-93**
51 King St W at Broad St

On this important corner stands a large brick and terra cotta structure which has housed some of Brockville's largest department stores from its very beginnings Built on land acquired in 1811 by Charles Dunham, an early merchant and innkeeper, the Dunham Block was erected in 1892-93 by his descendants as an investment property The present building replaced an earlier brick one which had been Dr George Dunham's office and drug store until the 1870's

The office space upstairs in the present building was first rented to the Bell Telephone Co. and the Canada Life Insurance Co and shortly thereafter the expanding mercantile business of Robert Wright became the building s major tenant The Robert Wright Co remained a landmark here until 1926 when they sold out to the T Eaton Co which operated a subsidiary business here, the Canadian Department Stores Ltd In 1966 Walker Stores Ltd. moved in and remained until bought out by Marks & Spencer Co. in 1976, and they in turn closed their business in January 1978.

8. THE HARDING BUILDING 1832
41, 45 King St W at Broad St.

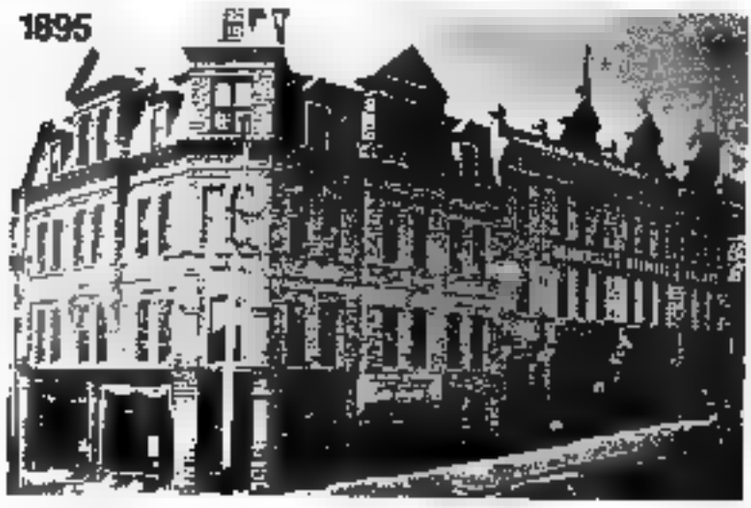
This is the building erected for a large general merchandise business, Moses Maynard & Co. in 1832. The property was, however, owned from 1831-1855 by Henry Jones of H & S Jones Co. who was the village postmaster as well There is some evidence that the Post Office was housed here also in the 1830 s.

In the drawing above we see that in 1853 its tenants were the Brockville Recorder, auctioneer Fordyce Lothrop, and druggists Ralph & Converse. The building however, has a long association with the Harding name having been purchased in 1868 by Thomas J B Harding, a young druggist who took over the existing pharmacy business of A N. MacDonald and operated it here for over 25 years. The building then became the property of his physician son, Dr William E. Harding in 1895 and he then carried out a number of mostly internal renovations and placed the date stone on the front parapet in 1904.

9. THE FULFORD BLOCK
King St W & Court House Ave.

There has been a building owned by the Fulford family on this corner for almost a hundred years. The large building which is now on this site and runs up Court House Ave almost to the old Post Office is mostly a product of construction which took place in 1889.

The structure of an early store which stood on the corner in the 1860's is assumed to have been incorporated into the overall design put together by George A. Allan, the architect of the large Court House Ave addition



A succession of Drug stores have operated out of this corner location, starting with the business of William M Fulford, then George T Fulford, John A. Barr, F R. Curry, F C Curry, and Stan Leslie up to this day

The property for the Fulford Block was purchased by George T Fulford in 1884 from the Morris family Fulford, whose expanding patent medicine business was started as an outgrowth of his drug store, soon needed additional space and built the new addition and renovated the existing building in 1889 to emulate the style of the new Post Office just to the north

A sudden and disastrous fire in 1916 gutted the building and the inside had to be rebuilt Early photographs taken prior to this fire show the original detailed design of the third floor which was destroyed

10. WAR MEMORIAL **1924**
Court House Ave. & King St.

The monument to those who died and served in the "Great" War is often taken for granted as it stands at the bottom of Court House Ave , but in 1924 when it was erected, feelings were high and memories still vivid of the recent war and those who didn't come back. The impetus for the memorial came from Mayor W B Reynolds and the town council and the ceremony of unveiling on May 23, 1924 by Hon George P Graham, then Minister of Railways and Canals, attracted a large throng of people. The twenty-two and a half foot statue of bronze and granite depicts a Canadian soldier in battle dress. The sculptor was Nicolas Pirotton and the figure was cast in Toronto by the Allis-Chalmers Co. It contains a number of inscriptions and the names of the various battlefields on which Brockville residents served.

10

11

11. JOHN H. FULFORD MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN 1917

Court House Avenue

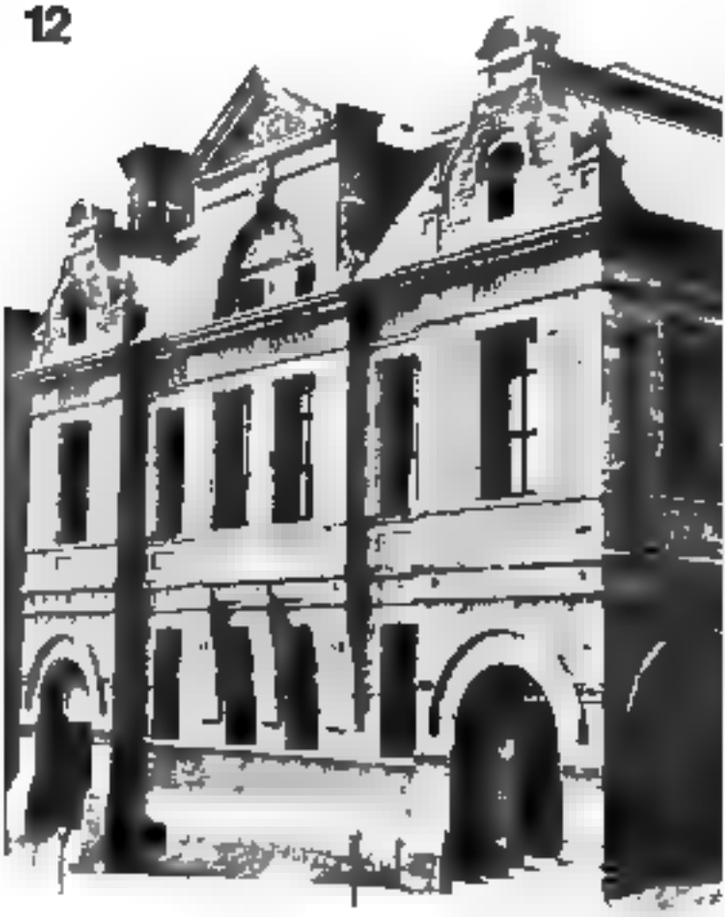
This unique element of landscape design on Court House Ave has undergone a recent restoration and re-birth after sitting unuseable for the last few years.

The fountain was erected in 1917 to honour the life of John Harris Fulford, a public figure and mayor of this town around the turn of the century The placing of the structure in this position subsequently led to the establishment of the boulevard in the centre of the street and included other improvements which have since been removed

The sculpturing in the "Italian Renaissance" style was the work of Herbert Raine of Montreal and was executed in glazed terra cotta in New York City It was designed as a series of three circular basins of increasing size with an arrangement of water jets and spill overs

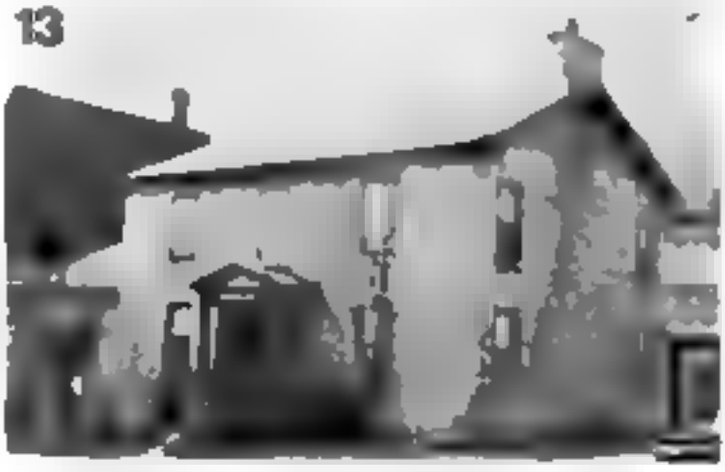
The cultural importance of this fountain was recognized in 1977 by a grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to the Brockville Foundation who carried out the restoration to bring it back into operation

12



12. **POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS HOUSE** **1883-85**
12 Court House Ave

This is the building which the Dominion government architect Thomas Fuller designed for Brockville in 1882 and was erected during 1883-1885. Designed to house the dual government functions of postal service and customs inspection, Fuller's prestigious and monumental building has been a landmark on Court House Avenue for over 90 years. Its presence in the 1880's led to the erection of two other large commercial buildings on the street. The Cornwall Building and the Fulford Block were both designed to emulate the style of the Post Office. The Post Office moved from these quarters in 1963 and the property was purchased by the Roman Catholic community in 1965 and converted into a parish centre and meeting hall



13. **ALEXANDER MORRIS HOUSE** **c.1835**
22 Court House Ave

This stone building which now houses the Brockville Club is the only remaining residential structure on Court House Avenue and its simple massing is in contrast with all the other larger buildings on the street. At one time all the property on this west side of Court House Ave was owned by the Morris family who operated a successful mercantile business. This stone house may not have been built until after 1834 when the property was transferred to the sole ownership of Alexander Morris when brother William Morris his partner gave up his interests in this land. In 1963 this lot and house became the property of the Bank of Upper Canada which appears to have carried on business here until 1866 when it returned to private hands. Two doctors lived here and had their offices in the southern wing. Dr. G. F. Goodeagle in the early 1880's and Dr. Harry Vaux from 1884-1900. It has been maintained as a private men's club. The Brockville Club since 1900

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14. GEORGE ST METHODIST CHURCH 1874-75
3 George Street (at Court House Sq.)

It was in 1874 that the small Methodist Episcopal congregation of Brockville which had been meeting together in other quarters decided to erect this building. The land on the south west corner of Court House Square was purchased from Jacob D Ruttan and work proceeded on the new building. This red brick neo-gothic styled building was trimmed with stone and topped with a tall pointed steeple (since removed) above the main entrance. In 1919 this congregation merged with the Wall St Methodist Church on the opposite corner of the Square and the property was sold to the Masonic Lodges the present owners.

15. PUBLOW TERRACE 1893-96
West Side of Court House Square

This adventurous row of terrace homes now known as Court Terrace was built in 1893-96 to the designs of Brockville architect O. F. Loucks. Originally known as the Publow Terrace after its developers John Publow and his wife Anne this complex structure replaced the large homestead of the Hon. James Morris which stood on the site previously. Unfortunately for the Publows they were pressed to pay the costs of construction and subsequently were unable to carry the mortgage

15

held by the Brockville Loan and Savings Co By court foreclosure the Publows lost the property and it was sold off to individual owners in the years 1905-06

16

16. GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK 1912
BUST AND FOUNTAIN
Court House Green

Of the three sculptural works on Court House Ave , this bust of General Brock is the earliest and also pre-dates any of the present Court House Ave landscaping

This drinking fountain surmounted by the likeness of the hero of the War of 1812 was unveiled on August 19. 1912 by the then Minister of Militia. Sam Hughes Erected through the efforts of the Brock Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I O D E.) the design was the work of the skilled Ottawa sculptor Hamilton McCarthy

Brockville has always been proud of the naming of the town after Isaac Brock and this statue was erected to commemorate the 100th year following his death at Queenston Heights, October 13 1812

17 MOLSON'S BANK BUILDING
21 Court House Ave

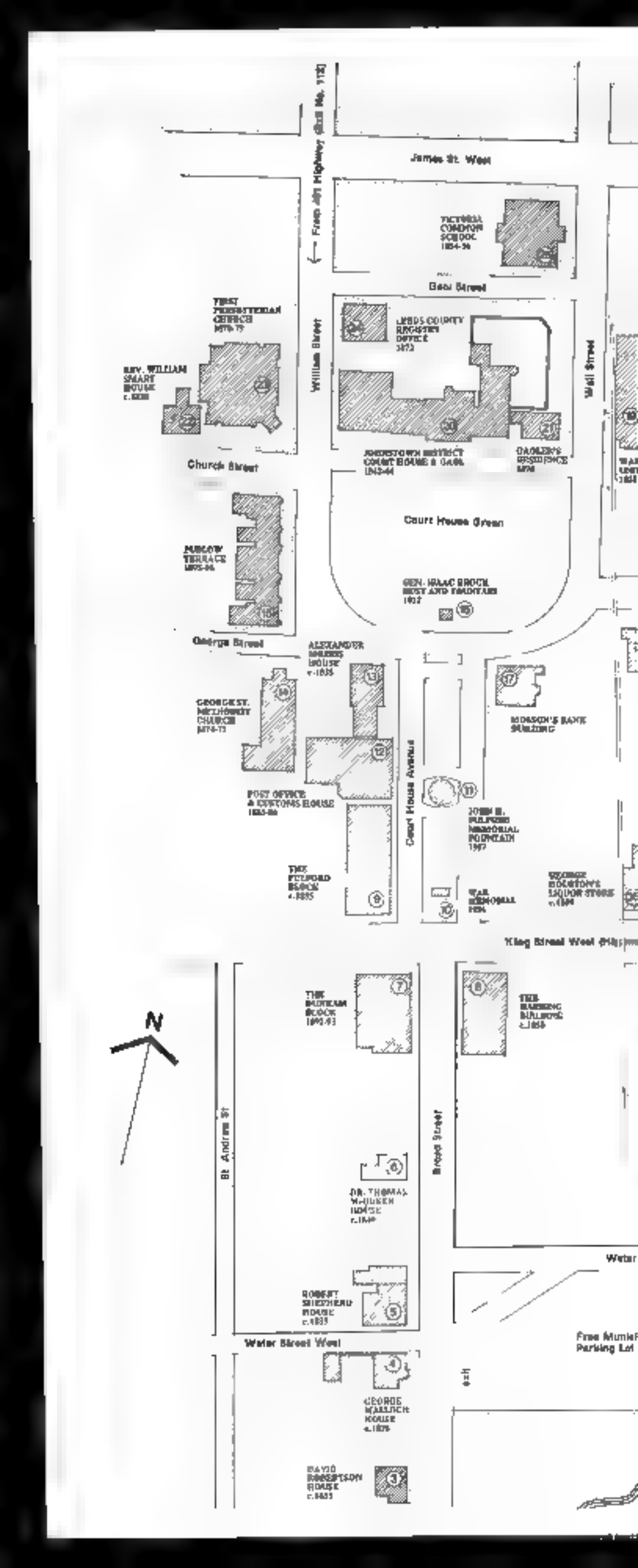
The background of this building is closely connected with the operations of a number of early banks in Brockville The exact date of construction is unknown but it exhibits characteristics of bank architecture being erected in this country during the mid-19th century The first known bank to be housed here was the Bank of Montreal in 1853 The Commercial Bank was the owner beginning in 1855 until they merged with the Merchant's Bank of Canada. This organization eventually sold the property in 1869

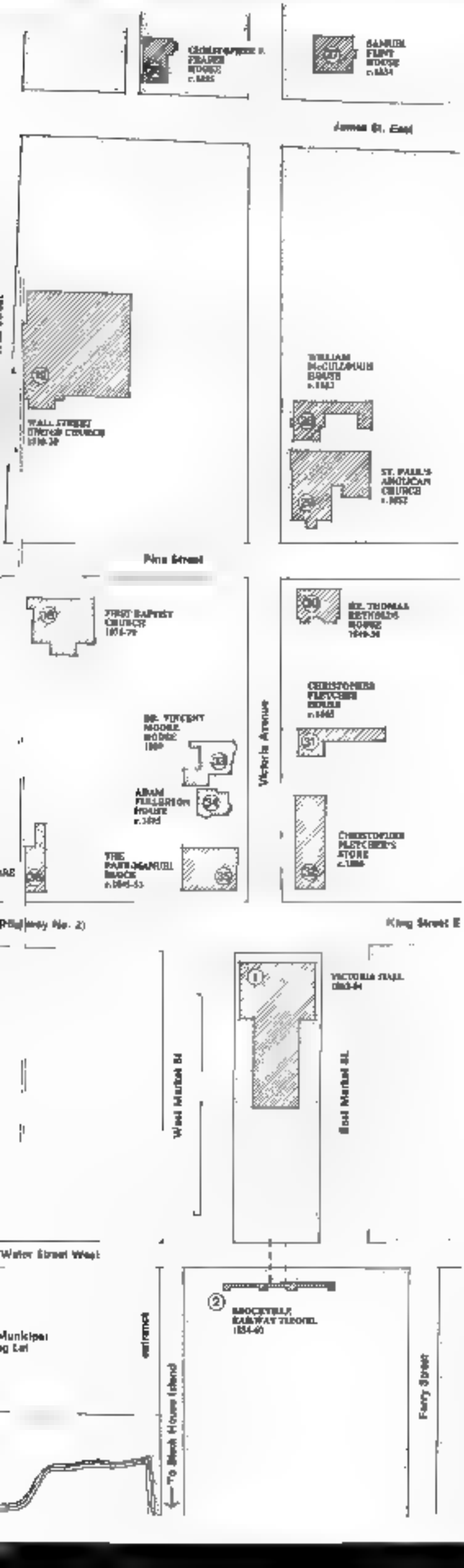
The last bank to use the building was the Molson's Bank which was bought out by the Bank of Montreal in the 1920's For many years, until recently the building was used and owned by the Ogle R. Gowan Temple of the Orange Lodge

18. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH **1878-79**
Pine Street at Wall St

When this Baptist Tabernacle was dedicated on March 23 1879, it was considered to have no other rival for architectural beauty in this part of the country The congregation was fortunate to obtain the services of Ogdensburg architect, James P Johnston, whose skill in composition and planning justified their expectations of achieving a monument to late Victorian design.

It was erected to replace a much smaller stone structure on this site The congregation can trace itself back to its founding in 1844 when it first met in the Rock School House on Perth St.


James St. West
Free 401 Highway (Exit No. 112)
Victoria Condron School 1854-56
East Street
First Presbyterian Church 1874-75
Rev. William Smart House c.1838
Leeds County Registry Office 1872
William Street
Wall Street
Johnstown District Court House & Gaol 1843-44
Gaoler's Residence 1878
Church Street
Court House Green
Gen. Isaac Brock Bust and Monument 1967
Munro Terrace 1875-86
George Street
Alexander Miller House c.1835
George St. Methodist Church 1874-75
Court House Avenue
Post Office & Customs House 1853-54
Thomson's Bank Building
John B. Aylsworth Memorial Fountain 1967
The Fulford Block c.1885
War Memorial 1924
George Richardson's Liquor Store c.1849
King Street West
N
St. Andrew St.
The Beckham Block 1892-93
The Barbers Building c.1858
Dr. Thomas Wilkinson House c.1849
Robert Shepherd House c.1839
Water Street West
George Marlatt House c.1875
David Breckenridge House c.1853
Bridge Street
Water
Free Municipal Parking Lot


Avenue St. East
WILLIAM McCULLOUGH HOUSE
ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Pine Street
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH
Victoria Avenue
CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER'S HOUSE
ALBAN FULLERTON HOUSE
CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER'S STORE
King Street E
VICTORIA HALL
West Market St
East Market St
Water Street West
BROCKVILLE RAILWAY TUNNEL
Ferry Street

The corner location facing Courthouse Square is utilized to advantage and the present Methodist edifice which was mostly built during 1879 is said to have cost $16,000. Of particular beauty are the large stained glass windows and the dominant spire which gives great height to the composition.

19 WALL ST. UNITED CHURCH 1838-1880
5 Wall Street

One of the earliest churches erected in Brockville, the Methodist congregation opened their first building on this site about 1838. The present structure is the result of many subsequent enlargements which have occurred over the years.

The building is a mixture of styles and represents built around the core of the original structure which was placed on a piece of land donated by William Buell, Brockville's founder.

The congregation was increased in 1919 when the nearby George St. Methodist Church amalgamated with them. Later they took part in the union arrangements in 1925 which resulted in the United Church of Canada.

The tower of [illegible] achieved some notoriety on Dominion Day 1874 when it snagged the air balloon of Professor Squires the notable aeronaut from New York who was unsuccessful in launching his craft from the Court House Green and had to be rescued from the dangling basket

20. DISTRICT OF JOHNSTOWN COURT HOUSE & GAOL **1842-44**
Court House Square

Perhaps the finest piece of architecture in Brockville is the Court House and Gaol built by the District of Johnstown in the years 1842-44. This classically inspired building was designed by the well known Toronto architect John G. Howard, to stand on this monumental site which had contained two previous court houses. This central space and green was the result of a generous donation by William Buell in 1809 of enough land to contain a District Court House and a wide road leading down to the river

The main facade of this present courthouse is reminiscent of neo-classical designs in the British Palladian style such as executed by Robert Adam and Sir William Chambers in England. This building was designed to contain the joint functions of justice, trial and incarceration. The old courtroom on the second floor may be viewed most days and retains much of the atmosphere of the past. The Jail at the east end still serves the counties of Leeds and Grenville but is not usually open to the law abiding public.

At the west end of this complex is an 1888 addition designed by George A. Allan of Brockville to blend into the whole without being obtrusive. It contains the offices and council chamber of the Counties government.

21

21 GAOLER'S RESIDENCE 1858
Court House Square

As part of the program of improving the facilities of the Counties Gaol in 1858 the construction of this house for the warden or gaoler as he was then known was included. Apparently the architect was George A. Allan who had been responsible for the design of the earlier addition to the west end of the Court House in 1850. It is no longer the home of a resident jail superintendent

22. REV WILLIAM SMART HOUSE **c.1820**
12 Church St

This stone home has long been the residence of the Presbyterian minister serving the nearby church Originally built early in the 1800's by the first Presbyterian minister the Rev William Smart, the house was turned over to the congregation about 1849 for continued use as a manse and still serves that purpose today

Smart who came to Brockville from England in 1811 served the church community in this whole area for many years He received the property from William Buell Sr in 1819 and the exact date of construction is unknown but it has probably outlived the two earlier church structures which were built next to it over the years The style of the exterior is typical of Brockville 2 storey stone architecture and it contains a round headed central entrance The design can be compared to the Robertson House on Broad St which is similar (No 3)

23. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **1878-79**
10 Church St & William St

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church goes back to the years after 1811 and the arrival of the Rev William Smart The present building was the third to be erected on this site The land was first deeded in 1816 by William Buell to Rev Smart and the first church a frame building served from 1819 to 1847 A more ambitious brick structure was built in 1848 and was used until 1878 when it was demolished to make way for the one which stands now This picturesque structure is still as impressive as it was when opened in 1879 Designed by Ogdensburg architect James P Johnston it is faced with blue limestone and trimmed with Ohio freestone Particularly noteworthy are the beautiful stained glass windows and the three tall towers

24 LEEDS COUNTY REGISTRY OFFICE 1873
William St

The brick County Registry Office standing north of the Court House buildings was erected in 1872 to replace an earlier stone registry building which had become inadequate. It was built to a standard Ontario government design as was the one in Prescott. By 1909 this office was considered too small and an addition designed by Brockville architect O. E. Leeson, adhering to the original

design, was added to the south side. In recent years more space was added to the rear but the original charming brick detailing on the street facades was not altered.

25. VICTORIA COMMON SCHOOL **1854-56**
Wall Street at James St

This old school building had been in continuous operation for 116 years when it was closed down in 1972. Victoria School was the first attempt in Brockville to house a large number of students under one roof when it was opened in 1856. Designed by engineer and surveyor Thomas Hurse it was constructed of locally quarried rough-cut stone by builder William Holmes. A large two-storey building, it contains 6 large classrooms and a unique double stairway.

26. CHRISTOPHER F. FRASER HOUSE **c. 1855**
8 James St. W. (at Victoria Ave.)

This large brick structure seems to have been built about 1855 for James and William White, a pair of successful house painters in Brockville. It became the home of lawyer and later politician, C. F. Fraser in 1866 a few years after he started his illustrious career in Brockville. Fraser rose quickly in politics to hold high cabinet positions in the provincial government from 1871 to 1894, having represented this area as MPP for more than 20 years. Following his death in 1894 the property remained in family hands until 1963.

27 SAMUEL FLINT HOUSE **c.1854**
4 James St E (at Victoria Ave)

This stately house was connected with the wealthy Flint family from its beginnings. It was probably built about 1854 for Samuel Flint the heir to the estate of his father Billa Flint Sr who amassed a great deal of property and money in the early years of Brockville. The property remained in the hands of family descendants until 1960. Of particular interest is the graceful verandah roof supported by detailed ironwork supports.

28. WILLIAM McCULLOUGH HOUSE **c.1853**
37 Victoria Ave

The property for this house was purchased from the Trustees of the Congregational Church next door in 1853 by William McCullough McCullough was a partner in a large factory on the waterfront which produced agricultural equipment. The house must date from that time as it appears on the map of Brockville published in 1853. William McCullough in his will of January 1885 disclosed that he was resident in this house at the time. On his death it became the property of his daughter.

Emily M. McCullough. Of interest on the south wall of the house is an elliptically shaped window.

29

29. ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH c. 1882
Pine Street at Victoria Ave.

This handsome stone building was erected during the early 1850's as the Brockville Congregational Church. Very little is known of this group but by 1880 the congregation may have dwindled and the building was sold to the group of Anglicans who had established the St. Paul's Church in 1882. The Sunday School wing on Pine St. was added about 1891.

30. DR. THOMAS REYNOLDS HOUSE 1849-50
25 Victoria Ave. (at Pine St.)

This large stone walled house was, according to family tradition, started in 1849 and completed during 1850 for Thomas Reynolds M.D. Reynolds, a native of Brockville, was a popular general practitioner and surgeon here from 1842 to 1850. His widow, formerly Eleanor Sparkler of Brockville, retained ownership until 1871 when it passed to her brother Edmund J. Sparkler, a Brockville lawyer.

30

The property was purchased in 1864 by the then Registrar of Deeds, Col. William H. Cole who undertook a number of external and internal alterations to bring it up to Victorian fashion. The addition of a false coating of cement and a new entrance changed the appearance of the house significantly from that time. It has been the home of the late Dr. Arthur H. Judson and his family since 1918.

31

11 CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER HOUSE c.1868
13 Victoria Avenue

This house probably dates back to the 1860's when the property was owned by Christopher Fletcher, a hardware and grocery merchant whose store was at the corner of King St. E. and Victoria Ave.

James and Victoria Kyle purchased this property in 1871 and shortly after sold it in December 1872 to James W B Rivers, the manager of the Molson's Bank It passed through further private hands until purchased by the Knights of Columbus in 1922 who maintained ownership until recently

Presently the building is being used by and is the home of the Friendship Centre an adult drop-in facility

32. CHRISTOPHER FLETCHER'S STORE c.1860
2 King St E at Victoria Ave

The Evangeline Shop on this corner is in a stone store which goes back at least to the late 1860's It is, however recorded that Thomas Webster ran a general merchandise business on this site as early as 1844 and he eventually purchased the property in 1854 from the estate of Charles Jones

By 1865 the corner housed the hardware and grocery business of Christopher Fletcher who probably was responsible for erecting the present structure The other stone buildings in the rear are of a similar style and age From about 1880 and well into the 1900's McHenry's was a thriving grocery business here

33. DR. VINCENT MOORE HOUSE 1880
12 Victoria Avenue

This magnificent, late-Victorian styled brick house was built in 1880 for Vincent H Moore, M D as a home and office Moore a skilled surgeon and coroner by this time had started practice in Brockville in 1870 and continued working here until his death in 1900 Built to a design similar to several other large homes erected in Brockville at the same time, 12 Victoria may be the work of the

33

architect James Johnston of Ogdensburg who is known to have designed the First Presbyterian Church which was erected in 1879

34

34. ADAM FULLERTON HOUSE c.1895
10 Victoria Ave

There is a lack of detailed information about this interesting Victorian brick home It appears to have been built in the 1890's and was owned by Mary A McCullough who also owned the commercial property on the nearby corner for a time It is recorded as being rented to Dr Thomas F Robertson in 1895 This part of the property was sold to John Culbert in 1901 and he in turn sold it to Adam Fullerton the druggist in 1903 From then on 10 Victoria seems to have been part of the buildings of the Fullerton Drug Business operated by Lovell Drugs until recently

35

35. THE PARR MANUEL BLOCK c.1845-53
2 King St W at Victoria Ave

One of the few commercial buildings on King St with a dressed stone front this building now housing Fullerton's Drug Store was apparently built in two stages First came the section at the corner erected about 1845 for William Manuel as a dry goods store The smaller portion to the west in the same design and materials was built by saddle and and harnessmakers Arthur and James Parr about 1851

The second floor housed the studio of A C McIntyre Brockville's earliest resident photographer and his successor George B Murray as well The middle portion of this block was occupied by the Post Office for over 10 years under postmaster John Kilborn The Post Office moved across to Victoria Hall in the late 1860's

The Fullerton Drug Store was founded by druggist Adam Fullerton about 1900 in one part of the block and eventually this business moved into the whole building The third floor brick extension was added sometime in the 1890's or later

36. GEORGE HOUSTON'S LIQUOR STORE c.1869
32 King St W

Perhaps not the oldest store on our main street but certainly exhibiting a style reminiscent of early days is the brick building of George K Houston who operated a liquor and grocery business here in the 1860's and 70's There have been many many businesses that have rented the premises in the succeeding years It was known as the Central Meat Market operated by butchers Daniel Ross and Thomas Burns in the 1890's and The Electric Shop of A P Louch in 1914 amongst others

A look above the ground floor reveals a rare sloping roof above a commercial facade The windows were shuttered as well, not too many years ago

THE FOUNDING OF BROCKVILLE

The founding of the settlement which has become the City of Brockville has its roots in the first wave of Loyalist refugees who were displaced from their homes during the years of the American Revolution, or War of Independence 1776-1783

Following the peace agreement the Canadian Governor Sir Frederick Haldimand who was based at Quebec, instructed his surveyors to lay out lots and townships in the unsettled lands along the north shore of the River St Lawrence between Montreal and Cataraqui (Kingston) In the summer of 1784 the

many recently disbanded troops both regular and militia and other Loyalists along with their families and few treasured possessions journeyed up the St Lawrence River to take up this newly staked out land By fall there were 182 men women and children within the bounds of this township which would be later named Elizabethtown after the third daughter of King George the Third

These first few years were ones of great hardship but through sheer perseverance working in a harsh environment and in spite of lacking the necessary tools and supplies these pioneers managed to establish themselves

It was William Buell a former Ensign in the King s Rangers who took up the grant of land which became the central portion of Brockville To the west another settler Daniel Jones established himself at the mouth of the creek which runs through our present city He built a saw mill there and obtained the grant of land next to that of Buell The land to the east of Buell s going over as far as the present Ford St was given to the family of Lt Peter McLaren killed during the previous conflict It was not developed until purchased in 1805 by Charles Jones a nephew of Daniel Jones

William Buell was successful in developing his land during the first thirty years of settlement into a small community which was first known as Buell s Bay A real boost to development occurred in 1808 when the government of Upper Canada based in York Toronto decided to move the administrative headquarters of the District of Johnstown from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to the village of Elizabethtown the official name of the hamlet from Johnstown 16 miles east which was considered to be not central enough in the District The three landowners Daniel Jones William Buell and Charles Jones all offered free land for the building of the new Court House and Gaol The highest piece of land the one owned by Buell was chosen and he responded with a deed for what we call the Court House Square along with a wide road leading down to the St Lawrence River This became the core of the village

In 1812 the name of the village was changed from Elizabethtown to Brockville in recognition of the chief administrator of the province and military commander of the British forces General Isaac Brock He was killed shortly afterwards in battle at Niagara

Brockville grew slowly for the next twenty years as did the rest of the province but with the large waves of British immigration in the 1830 s the village gained its share of new arrivals In 1832 Brockville was given self governing status and was made a Police Village with administration by an elected Board of Police

From these early beginnings the City of Brockville has grown to be a city of 20 000 people

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BROCKVILLE

At a brief ceremony in Victoria Hall in March 1966 Brockville became one of the few communities in America to boast an authentic Grant of Arms from the Royal College of Arms in England. Arms, of course, are the armorial bearings or devices which a person or legal entity is entitled to use as official insignia. Although many designs are to be seen in cities and towns, few are from a recognized issuing authority.

The Arms of the Corporation of the City of Brockville are described in heraldic terms in the following way (explanatory notes are in brackets):

THE SHIELD Azure (blue) two bars wavy argent (silver) between three bee hives or (gold).

THE CREST On a wreath of the colours, between two pellets (cannon balls) a hunting horn vert (green), stringed with a cord plaited gules (red).

THE SUPPORTERS On the dexter* (right) side a lion per fess (halved horizontally) or (gold) and gules (red), armed sable (with black claws) and on the sinister* (left) side an eagle close per fess (halved horizontally) gules (red) and or (gold), armed and beaked sable (with black talons and beak).

THE MOTTO Industria Intelligentia Prosperitas.

The basic colours (white and blue) are from those of Brockville's oldest social club — The Brockville Rowing Club. The beehives on the shield are from the old town seal. The hunting horn — the device used to denote rifle regiments, the black cannon balls and the red and green cord on the crest all reflect the city's pride in The Brockville Rifles RCIC. The city qualified for supporters by virtue of having city status. The lion and eagle as supporters were chosen because they appear on the arms of General Sir Isaac Brock after whom the city was named in 1812. Brock's lion was red and eagle gold, so to make them different Brockville's are counter changed horizontally red and gold.

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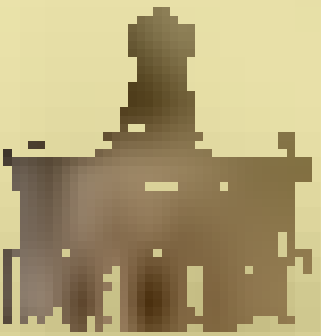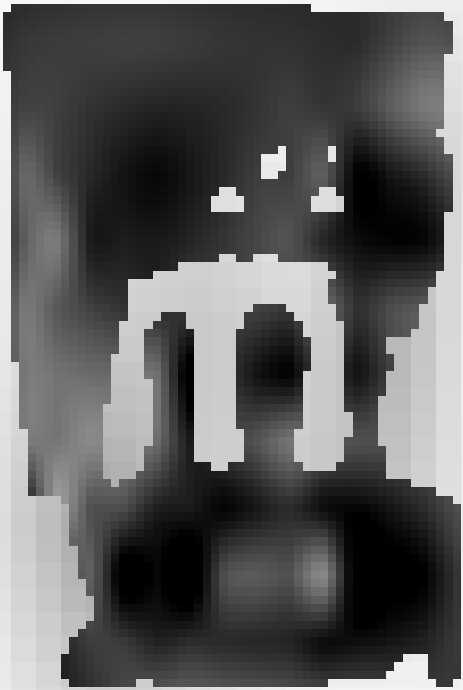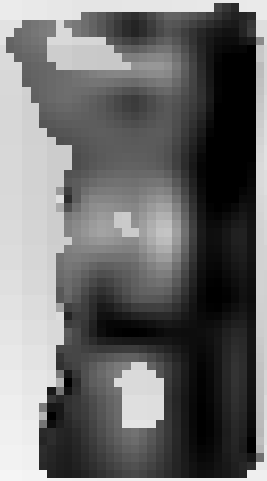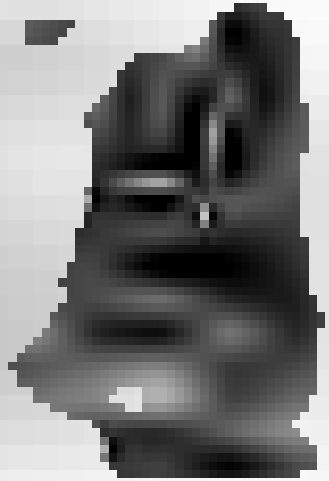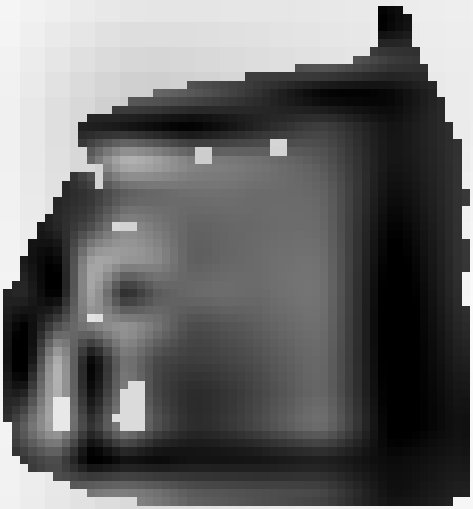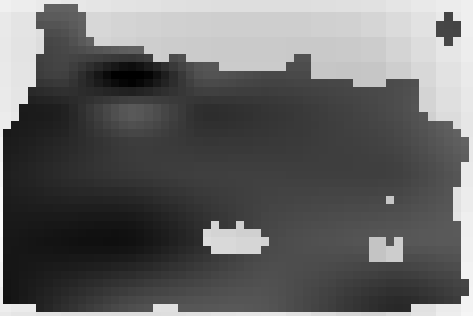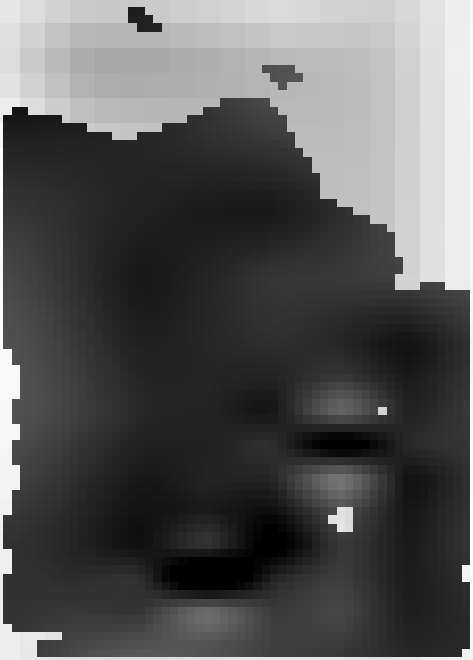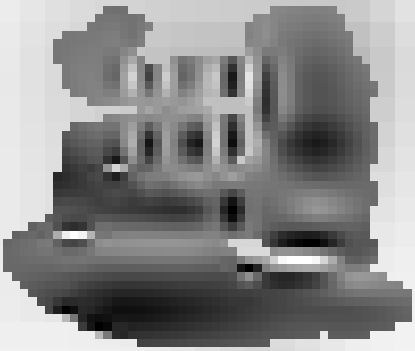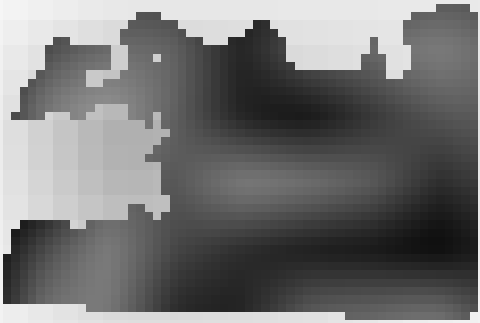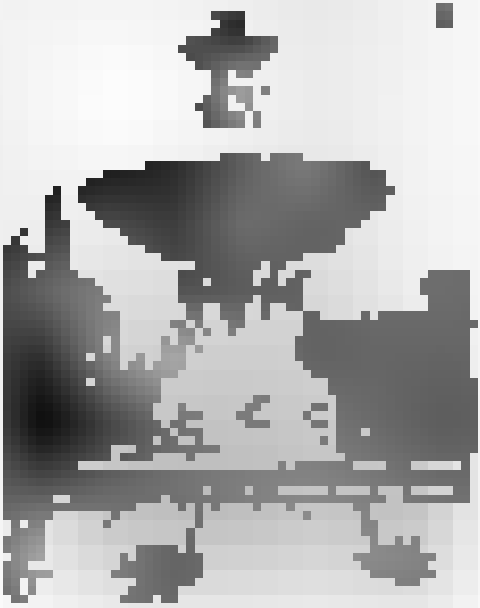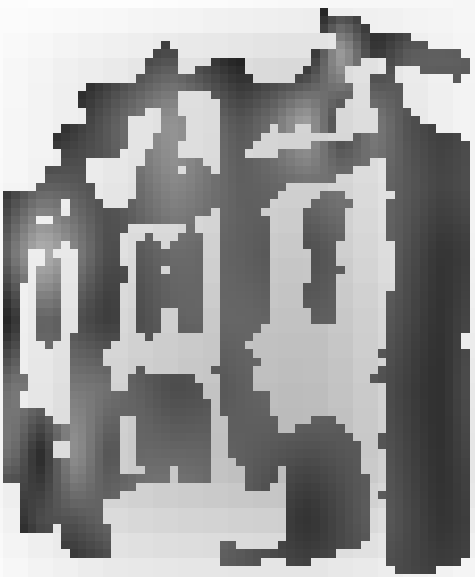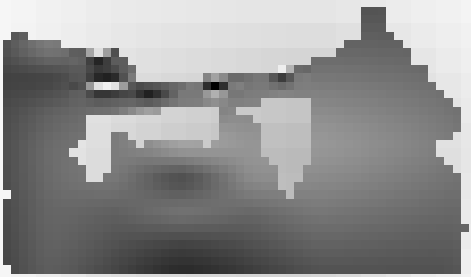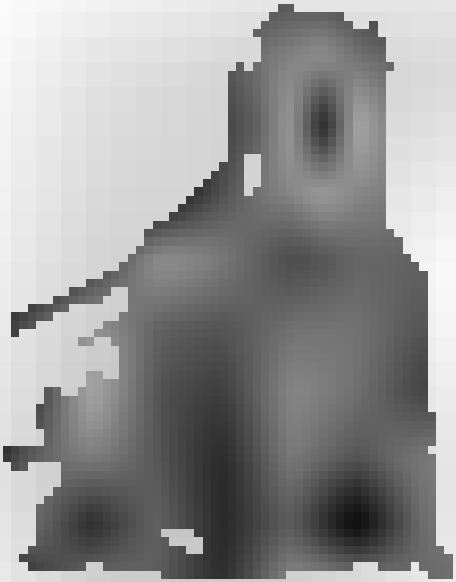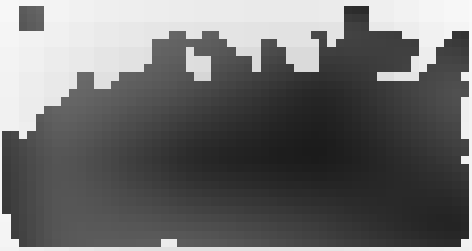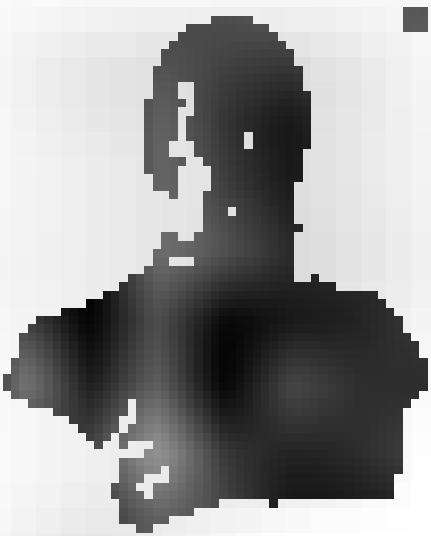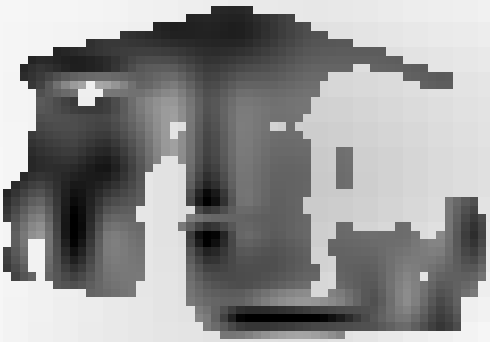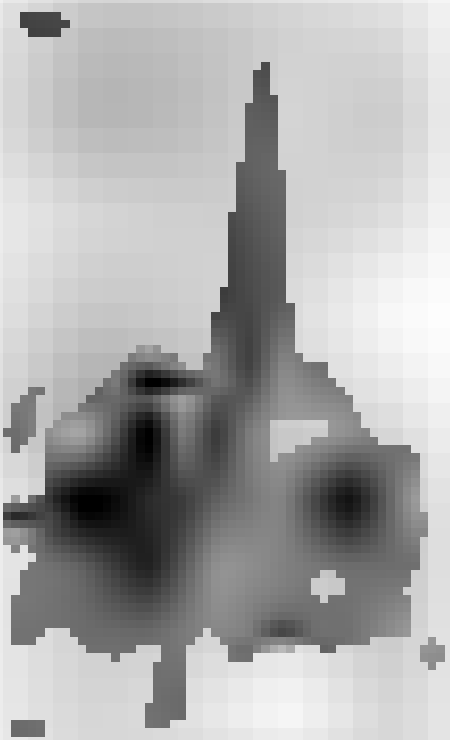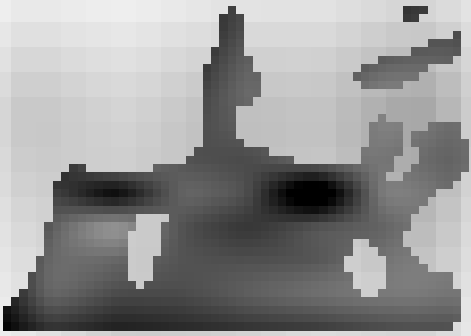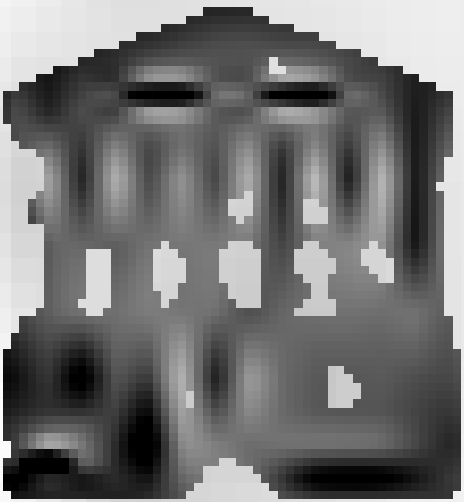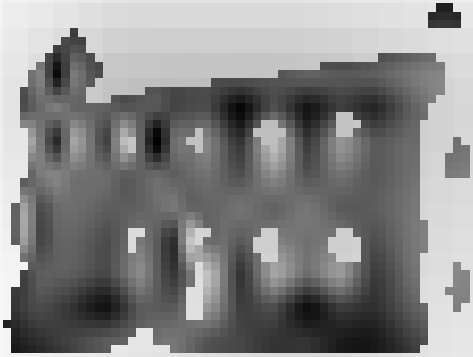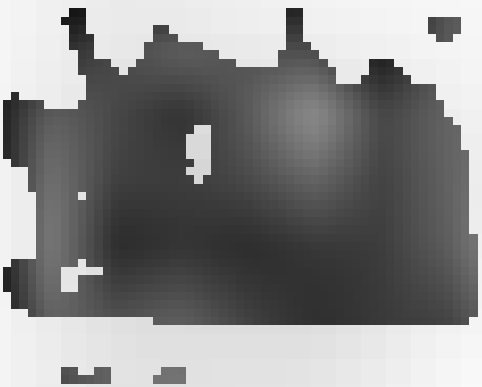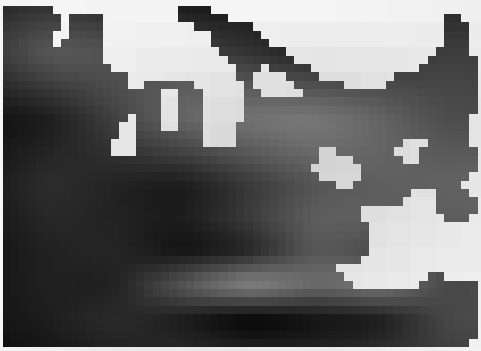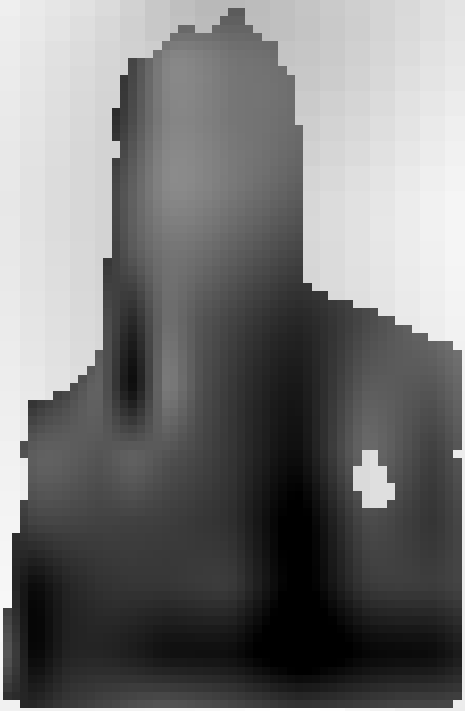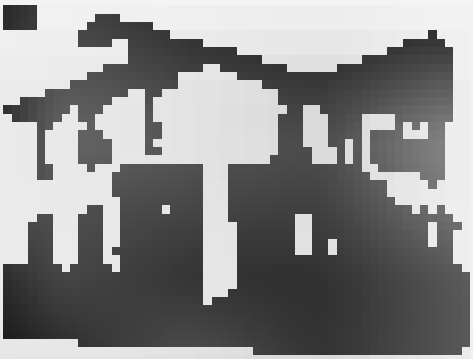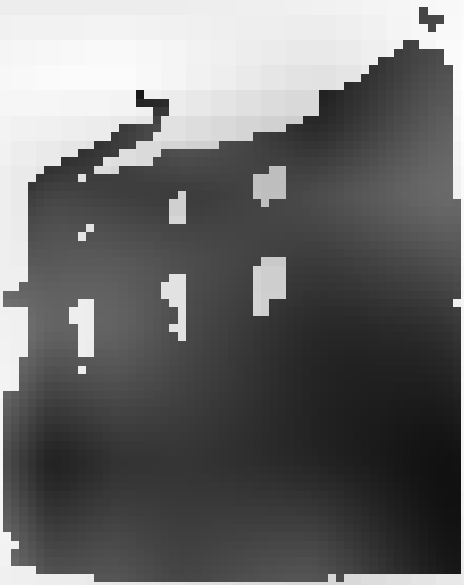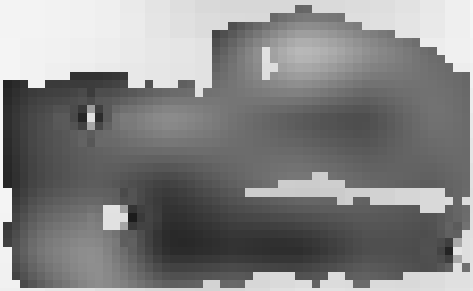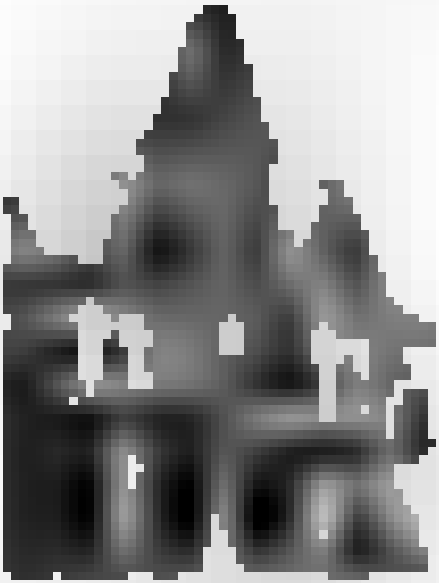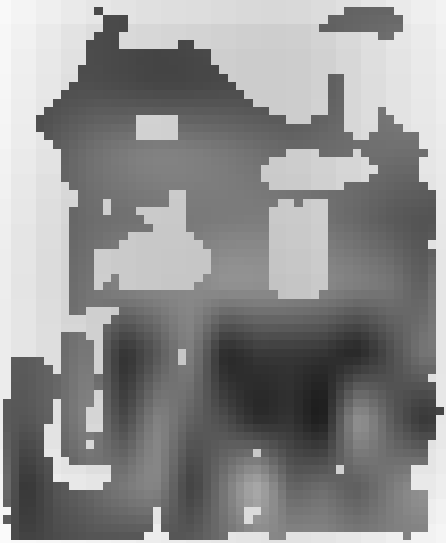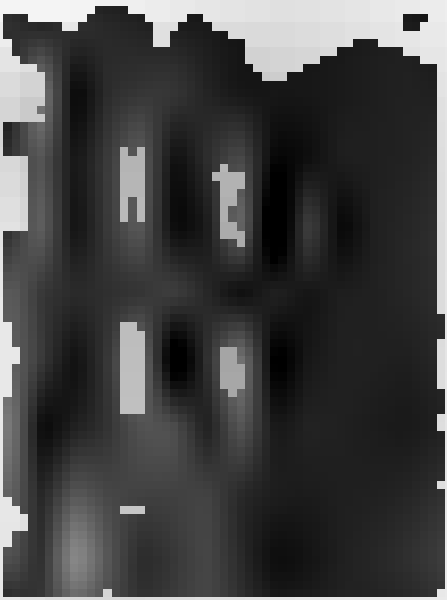
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